

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 7, 2003. Claims 2-9 and 11-18 and 102-105 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 10, and 19-101 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claims 2-18 have been amended. New Claims 102-105¹ have been added. Added Claims 102-104 correspond to former Claims 16/13/12/11/10/9/4/1, 17/13/12/11/10/9/4/1, and 18/13/12/11/10/9/4/1, respectively.

Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 16-18, and 102-104 are in independent form.

The Office Action objected to Figs. 93-97 because, according to the Office Action, those Figures should be labeled "Prior Art". Attached is a Request For Approval To Make Drawing Changes in which it is proposed to insert "Prior Art" in those Figures. Entry of those changes is respectfully requested, as is withdrawal of the drawing objection.

Claims 2-18 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but, according to the Office Action, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form so as not to depend from the rejected claim. Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, and 16-18 have been amended essentially along those lines, and thus it is believed that those claims and the claims which depend therefrom are in condition for allowance. Added Claims 102-104 correspond to former Claims 16/13/12/11/10/9/4/1, 17/13/12/11/10/9/4/1, and 18/13/12/11/10/9/4/1, respectively, and also are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejected Claims 20, 21, and 79 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The Office Action also rejected Claims 79 and 80 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,853,310 (*Nishimura et al.*), and Claims 1, 19, 20, 79, and 80 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,306,001 (*Hiroki*).

¹/ The explicit recitations of Claim 105 are substantially the same as those of former Claim 10.

Without conceding the propriety of these rejections, each rejected claim has been canceled, thereby rendering its rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, only claims that are believed to be in condition for allowance remain. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 42,476

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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